



**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
COMMISSION MEETING
October 14, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Morris called the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) to order at 12:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Members Present

Joshua Butler
Frances Dawson Harris
Dan Hansch
Diana Lejins
George Miller
David Morris
William Serhan
Shirley Shouse

Members Absent

Alexander Britton
Flora Easter
Shauna Hagemann
Willa Heart
Awet Moges
Chelsea Starr
Valoria Tate

Staff Present

Dora Jones
Katherine Bussi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 9, 2004

Commissioner Shouse made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Lejins seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the following corrections: Valoria Tate was present at the meeting, and two Commissioners were opposed to filing and receiving the 2004 – 2005 Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's Investigation Report. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Morris stated that the Commission needs to work together professionally on issues affecting the disabled community. On October 5, 2004, the Mayor presented the Proclamation that October is Disability Awareness Month to Commissioners Dawson Harris and Heart. In addition, he explained that whenever there is an item on the City Council's Agenda pertaining to CACoD all Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

STAFF REPORT

Dora Jones reiterated how important it is to attend the City Council Meeting when there is a CACoD item on the agenda to show our support for that item. She thanked Commissioners Dawson Harris, Heart and Lejins who were in attendance at the October 5, 2004 City Council meeting. In addition, she stated that the Information

Center for People with Disabilities received the Helen Putman Award at the October 12, 2004 City Council meeting and they mentioned CACoD's role in the project. Ms. Jones encouraged the commission to continue to work with the Information Center.

Ms. Jones stated the Recognition Luncheon would be held in the third week of December. Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the status of the Transition Plan. Lastly, Ms. Jones stated that the paperwork to have Commissioners Moges and Starr replaced has been submitted to the Mayor's Office. Commissioner Starr submitted a letter of resignation due to a job conflict and Commissioner Moges no longer lives or works in Long Beach.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Dawson Harris reported that the Department of Justice responded to the Accessibility and Transportation Committee's letter concerning disabled persons refueling their vehicles at service stations. The information will be forwarded to the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission who filed the inquiry with CACOD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (3-minute time limit)

Accessibility & Transportation Committee - Commissioner Dawson Harris reported that the platform barrier demonstration project is due to start by January 2005. Commissioner Dawson Harris attended the Access Services Inc.'s (ASI) Community meeting on September 25, 2004, at which their issue papers were discussed. On November 12, 2004, ASI will hold a public hearing to review the fiscal year 2004 -05 Para transit Plan updates. In addition, she reported that people in the disabled community are concerned about the available, alternative transportation from eastbound Artesia Station when the 51, 52 and 66 buses stop operating. People in the disabled community who utilize mobility devices believe it is safer to exit the bus prior to allowing passengers to board the bus. The disabled community is pleased that the City Council authorized a financial feasibility evaluation for universally accessible playgrounds.

Employment Committee – Commissioner Hansch reported that he had a list that was compiled by Commissioner Hagemann that assigned each student to a City Official and a Commissioner for National Mentoring Day. The Commission reviewed the list and a discussion ensued regarding National Mentoring Day.

Programs and Services Committee – Commissioner Lejins reported that she is working on the 2004- 05 Goals and Objectives since Commissioner Tate has been ill.

Youth Committee – Commissioner Miller stated that the committee needs help raising funds for the Youth Leadership Scholarships.

Other Committees – Governor's Committee - Commissioner Morris stated he would be attending a Governor's Committee meeting next week. He encouraged the Commissioners to write to the Mayor with their support for the continuation of the Governor's Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Hansch motioned to approve Commissioner Lejins as the Chairperson for the Programs and Services Committee. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Morris asked that the Committees' Goals and Objectives be handed in to him for review.

The agenda items regarding the Executive Committee Meeting and the procedures for concerns and complaints were deferred. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Lejins motioned to form an Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate the December Recognition Luncheon. Commissioner Shouse seconded the motion. All were in favor of forming the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee is comprised of Commissioner Lejins, Commissioner Shouse and Commissioner Butler. All were in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Butler stated that the Disabled Resources Center would hold training for Election Day Polling Place Accessibility on October 20, 2004.

Commissioner Lejins stated that Equality in Education would be having a "Leaving No Child Behind" Workshop on October 16, 2004.

Commissioner Dawson Harris stated she attended the California Disability Rights meeting where they had therapy animals from Paws for Healing.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lejins motioned to adjourn the meeting in honor of Christopher Reeves. Commissioner Serhan seconded the motion.

Chairperson Morris adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.